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but his examinations were rather cursory. This mountain, with others farther to the east, were carefully studied by Mr. W. H. Holmes, of the Hayden Survey, in 1875 and 1876, and his illustrations in the reports for those years show the same structure in the La Plata mountains, the Sierra Carrisso, and the Sierra El Late, in South-western Colorado and adjacent regions, with some points that do not appear in the Henry mountains, probably on account of the greater simplicity of the latter. Mr. Holmes' drawings appear to be nearer to nature, *i. e.*, less schematic. Scattered through Hayden's reports from 1873 to 1876 are many descriptions of this type of structure, and the term *Porphyritic-Trachyte* (p. 64 and 68) used by Mr. Gilbert to designate the group to which the rocks belong, was first used by Dr. A. C. Peale, of Hayden's corps, in 1874 (see his report for 1874 in Hayden's Annual Report), and afterwards he always used the term in designating the rocks.

Mr. Clarence King, in his report (Systematic Geology, 1878, p. 581), proposes the name *Trachytoid-porphyr* for the group, having recognized the resemblance of certain rocks occurring within the area of his explorations, to those of the Henry mountains. He also recognizes the peculiar petrographical position of the rocks, one extreme of which cannot be distinguished from granite, and the other of which is undoubtedly trachyte. This fact was also pointed out by Dr. Peale in 1874 and 1875 (see his reports to Dr. Hayden). The descriptions of the localities mentioned in Dr. Hayden's Annual Reports were brought together in an article (On a peculiar type of Eruptive Mountains in Colorado) in Bulletin No. 3, Vol. III, of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories, published May 15, 1877. Mr. Gilbert's volume is dated Washington, 1877, although it was not published until about four months ago.

BATRACHOLOGICAL PAPERS.—Prof. Peters, of Berlin, has recently published an important paper in the Berlin Monatsberichte,¹ on the *Cæciliidæ*. He discovered two new generic forms in which the usual position of the orbit is covered over by the squamosal bone, thus enclosing the rudimental eye in the fundus of the tentacular canal. One of these, *Gymnopsis*, is American; the other, *Herpele*, is African. Prof. Peters then discusses the systematic arrangement of the family, and shows that it embraces ten generic forms, seven of which are new. Among other characters he relies on the form of the tentacle, which may be valve-shaped, globular at the extremity, or acute. He finds that the generic name *Rhinatrema* was proposed on an immature *Ichthyophis*.—In another paper Prof. Peters² describes two new species of *Ædipus*, one

¹ Ueber die Eintheilung der Cæcilien, und insbesondere ueber die Gattungen *Gymnopsis* u. *Rhinatrema*. Nov., 1879.

² Monatsberichte Berliner Akademie, August, 1879.

from New Grenada, the other from Hayti. If the latter locality is correct, it gives an entirely new distribution for the genus.—It is now some time since M. Fernand Lataste of Paris, showed that the larvæ of the *Batrachia Anura* with opisthocœlous vertebræ have their branchial fissure median, while those with procœlous vertebræ have it on the left side. In a more recent paper¹ this author discusses the position of the genus *Discoglossus* in the system, and gives much new information respecting the habits, varieties and larvæ of the *D. pictus*. He adopts the system proposed by Cope in 1864, in which *Discoglossus* is placed with *Bombinator* and *Alytes* in a special section of the *Anura*, apart from the ranoid and pelobatoid types. M. Lataste creates a number of new names. The distinction in the articular character of the vertebræ had not been used by Cope as the basis of a primary division on account of its uncertainty in some *Cystignathidæ*, but M. Lataste adopts an opposite course. He also gives tribal names to the group with and without ribs, which, in our opinion, increases nomenclature unnecessarily. For this reason we commend his rejection of the new names proposed by M. DeLisle.

OSTEOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—Prof. Allen, of Philadelphia, has recently made some interesting observations on the ethmoid and turbinate bones of the Chiroptera, which are noticed in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge.² Among other things he finds that in the *Pteropidæ*, *Nycteridæ* and some *Phyllostomidæ*, a horizontal plate extends “from the under free edge of the vertical plate” of the ethmoid “to the nasal septum. The olfactory surface in such forms is thus withdrawn from the respiratory currents, since no direct outlet exists at the posterior nares.”—Prof. E. D. Cope has recently published in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society,³ a description of the foramina which perforate the temporal and adjacent parts of the parietal bones of the *Mammalia*. He finds nine of these which are generally constant in position, but present great variety in their occurrence in the different orders, families and genera. Three of them are confined to the *Menotremata* and *Marsupialia*, while there are many of the higher types which do not possess any of them. The largest number is present in the equine *Perissodactyla* and the *Ruminantia*. Prof. Cope's conclusions are stated as follows:

(1.) The sinous foramina furnish valuable diagnostic characters, and may, with proper limitations, be used in systematic definition.

(2.) The primitive condition of the various Mammalian orders, appears to have been the possession of a limited number of these foramina.

¹ Actes de la Société Linneenne de Bordeaux, xxxiii, p. 275, 1879.

² Vol vi, No. 5, Feb., 1880.

³ No. 105, March, 1880.